

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:29 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov of Russia. The agreement was formally titled the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation, and Security and NATO and the Russian Federation.

Proclamation 7003—National Safe Boating Week, 1997

May 14, 1997

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's scenic waterways—the beautiful lakes, magnificent rivers, and immense oceans at our borders—are a national treasure. Some 76 million Americans of all ages and abilities—more than one-fourth of our Nation's population—take to these vast resources every year to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, each in his or her own way. But boaters too often forget that, besides being relaxing and fun, boating can be dangerous.

The U.S. Coast Guard's most recent annual statistics reveal 851 fatalities related to recreational boating, a 13 percent increase from the previous year. Tragically, 90 percent of those victims were not wearing a life jacket. Because falling overboard and capsizing are the two leading causes of all recreational boating fatalities, this safety device is essential to boating safety. Refraining from drinking alcohol is also essential to assure safe boating, as more than half of all boating accidents involve alcohol.

Safe-boating education, which is available through a wide variety of sources—the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, State and local governments, and numerous private organizations—is another key to accident prevention. Ninety percent of all boating fatalities occur on boats whose operators had no formal boating safety instruction. By word and by example, we must inform and educate both current and future generations of boaters to become knowledgeable boat operators. Learn about safety equip-

ment and the “rules of the road.” Then follow a few simple rules: wear a life jacket; never drink while boating; operate at safe speeds; and be alert for weather changes.

By making safety the first priority and emphasizing the necessity for all boaters, especially children, to wear life jackets, we can help to put tragic boating accidents behind us and enjoy more fully the beauty and excitement of the open water.

I commend the U.S. Coast Guard, Federal departments and agencies, States and local governments, and the many recreational boating organizations who are actively promoting saving lives on the water through the theme of this year's campaign: “Life Jackets. They Float. You Don't.”

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices the year-round, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 161), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day Weekend as “National Safe Boating Week.”

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 17 through May 23, 1997, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to join in observing this occasion and to urge all Americans to practice safe boating habits not only during this week but also throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 16, 1997]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

Message to the Senate on Conditions to the Flank Document of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty

May 14, 1997

To the Senate of the United States:

I am gratified that the Senate has given its advice and consent to the ratification to the CFE Flank Document and I look forward to the entry into force of this important agreement. It will reaffirm the integrity of one of the CFE Treaty's core provisions and will facilitate progress on CFE adaptation and, thus, NATO enlargement, key elements for advancing United States and European security.

I must, however, make clear my view of several of the Conditions attached to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification, including Conditions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11. These Conditions all purport to direct the exercise of authorities entrusted exclusively to the President under our Constitution, including for the conduct of diplomacy and the implementation of treaties. The explicit limitation on diplomatic activities in Condition 3 is a particularly clear example of this point. As I wrote the Senate following approval of the Chemical Weapons Convention, a condition in a resolution of ratification cannot alter the allocation of authority and responsibility under the Constitution. I will, therefore, interpret the Conditions of concern in the resolution in a manner consistent with the responsibilities entrusted to me as President under the Constitution. Nevertheless, without prejudice to my Constitutional authorities, I will implement the Conditions in the resolution.

Condition (9), which requires my certification that any agreement governing ABM Treaty succession will be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent, is an issue of particular concern not only because it addresses a matter reserved to the President under our Constitution, but also because it is substantively unrelated to the Senate's review of the CFE Flank Document. It is clearly within the President's authorities to determine the successor States to a treaty when the original Party dissolves, to make the adjustments required to accomplish such suc-

cession, and to enter into agreements for this purpose. Indeed, throughout our history the executive branch has made a large number of determinations concerning the succession of new States to the treaty rights and obligations of their predecessors. The ABM Succession MOU negotiated by the United States effectuated no substantive change in the ABM Treaty requiring Senate advice and consent. Nonetheless, in light of the exceptional history of the ABM Treaty and in view of my commitment to agree to seek Senate approval of the Demarcation Agreements associated with the ABM Treaty, I have, without prejudice to the legal principles involved, certified, consistent with Condition (9), that I will submit any agreement concluded on ABM Treaty succession to the Senate for advice and consent.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
May 14, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15.

Message to the Congress on Conditions to the Flank Document of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty

May 14, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification on the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe of November 19, 1990 ("the CFE Flank Document"), adopted by the Senate of the United States on May 14, 1997, I hereby certify that:

In connection with Condition (2), Violations of State Sovereignty, the United States and the governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom have issued a joint statement affirming that (i) the CFE Flank Document does not give any State Party the right to station (under Article IV, paragraph 5 of the Treaty) or temporarily deploy (under Ar-